

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
American Samoa Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office
Pago Pago Village Flood Hazard Mitigation Project
PDMC-PJ-09-CA-2003-004

The American Samoa Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office (TEMCO) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program to undertake a flood control project. The PDM Program assists states/territories and communities to implement sustained, pre-disaster, natural-hazard mitigation programs to reduce overall risk to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. During the Presidentially declared disaster of May 2003, flooding of Vaipito and Laolao Streams in Pago Pago Village caused considerable damage to roads and private and commercial properties and blocked the main arterial road that connects the east and west sides of Tutuila for two days. TEMCO has identified the need to reduce the flood hazard in Pago Pago Village as one of its highest priorities.

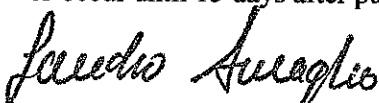
TEMCO proposes to improve and realign approximately 2,900 linear feet of channel to contain the 100-year flood. The improved channel would reroute flows from Vaipito Stream into Laolao Stream, intercept flows from smaller tributary channels, and intercept sheet flow from surrounding mountain slopes. The banks and the streambed would be excavated, graded, shaped, and compacted. This would be followed by the placement of geotextile fabric and new bedding rock in the channel. After the stream modification is complete, TEMCO would construct two road bridges, and potentially re-construct the Highway 1 bridge. Chain-link fencing would be built for pedestrian safety along the entire improved channel. A 4-foot-high floodwall would be constructed on a downstream section of the improved channel.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Pago Pago Village Flood Hazard Mitigation Project (November 2004) to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Action on the human environment. The Final EA was prepared after a Draft EA was submitted for public review and comments. FEMA received no comments on the Draft EA. The Final EA is available online at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>.

An initial public notice has been circulated explaining reasons for potentially siting part of the project in a wetland pursuant to Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990 (Protection of Wetland). This Finding of No Significant Impact serves as the final notice for compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990. Information required by 44 CFR Part 9.12(e) (Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, Final Public Notice) is provided in the Final EA.

Based upon the conditions and the information contained in the Final EA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared, based on the fact that there will be no long-term adverse impacts to the natural environment resulting from the Proposed Action. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027. No action will be allowed to occur until 15 days after publication of this Finding of No Significant Impact.



NOV 26 2004

Alessandro Amaglio
Region IX Environmental Officer

Date